



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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June 21, 2005

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Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2005-045  
Expires 9/30/06

To: CDD District Manager/California Field Managers  
Attention: All California Fire Management Program Personnel

From: State Director

Subject: Clarification of Fire Program Collar Insignia Policy and Fire Management Shield Guidelines

The authorization to wear collar insignia for fire personnel was granted in 2002. This authority continues to assist and support our interagency command structure needs through visible rank identification.

The guidelines for collar insignia remain the same. For consistency, the only acceptable shield is the Antique Gold colored shield.

As in the past, the only persons authorized to order the shields are Gary Cardoza or Les Matarazzi.

For questions please contact Ed Wehking, State Fire Management Officer, at 916-978-4431.

Signed by:  
James Wesley Abbott  
Associate State Director

Authenticated by  
Richard A. Erickson  
Records Management

Attachments (2)  
1 - Collar Brass Insignia Policy Statement (1 pp)  
2 - Wearing of Collar Brass (6pp)

# **POLICY STATEMENT**

## **COLLAR BRASS INSIGNIA FOR BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM OFFICIALS**

### **I. PURPOSE.**

This policy sets forth guidelines for the wearing of collar brass insignia for Fire Management Program Officials in the State of California.

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a uniform means of identifying command and rank structure that is common to all law enforcement agencies within California. This policy will provide for a visual and rapid means of recognizing command or supervisory officials, and is intended to promote quick identification and communication with key management personnel by officials from other agencies and the members of the public.





The fire program in California is unique in the Bureau of Land Management in that there are numerous positions, with expectation for increases. California fire management personnel have been called upon to interface and conduct joint operations with large fire agencies with traditional methods of identifying supervisory and command personnel. It is critical that as our role as partners continues to increase with these agencies, we establish policies that will continue to build our credibility and enhance our relationship. In the past, confusion has risen with the public and cooperating fire management agencies as to who is in charge when confronted with multiple officials in field situations, in meetings, planning sessions, and in training. This is especially true in some of our offices with larger numbers of fire management personnel.



### **II. GUIDELINES FOR WEAR.**

All uniformed employees in the classes listed below will wear the type of collar brass as indicated for that designation. Silhouette gold star-type collar brass must be one-half of an inch in size; all other silhouette-type collar brass must be approximately seven-eighths of an inch in size. Approved manufacturer is Blackington & Co.

**Rank designations for BLM Fire Program personnel are as follows:**

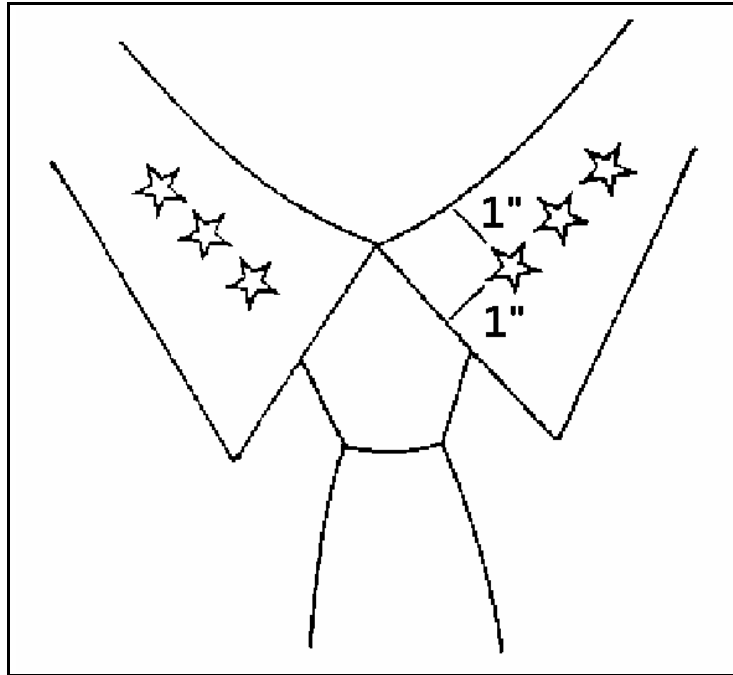
	
<b>5 Gold Stars</b>	
	Associate State Director
<b>4 Gold Stars</b>	
	State Fire Management Officer
<b>3 Gold Stars</b>	
	State Aviation Manager State Fuels Specialist State Suppression Officer
<b>2 Gold Stars</b>	
	State Aviation Pilot North & South Zone Operations Officers State Fire & Aviation Administrator State Equipment Manager
<b>1 Gold Star</b>	

	
<p><b>5 Crossed Gold Bugles</b></p>	
	
<p><b>4 Crossed Gold Bugles</b></p>	
	
<p><b>3 Crossed Gold Bugles</b></p>	
	
<p><b>2 Crossed Gold Bugles</b></p>	

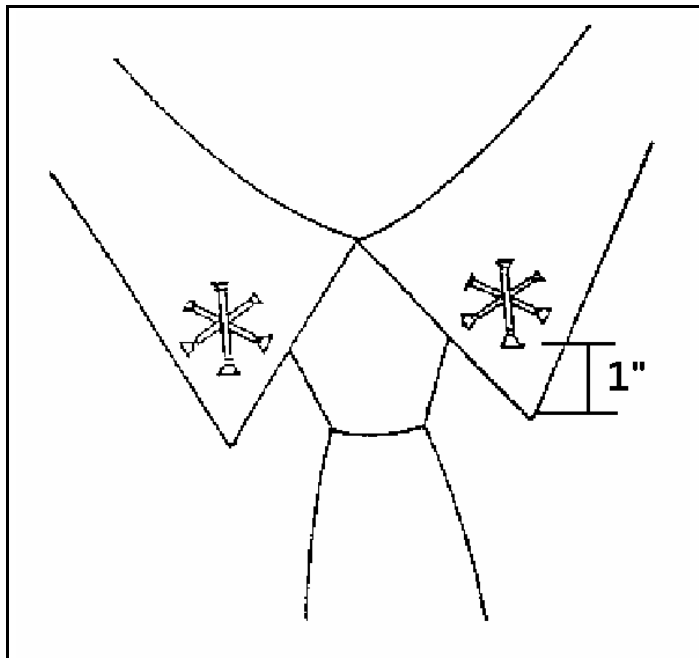
	
<p><b>2 Vertical Silver Bugles (Nickel finish)</b></p>	<p>Engine Captain Assistant Hot Shot Superintendent Assistant Helitack Foreman</p>
	
<p><b>1 Vertical Silver Bugle (Nickel finish)</b></p>	<p>Engine Operator/Engineer</p>

# WEARING COLLAR INSIGNIA

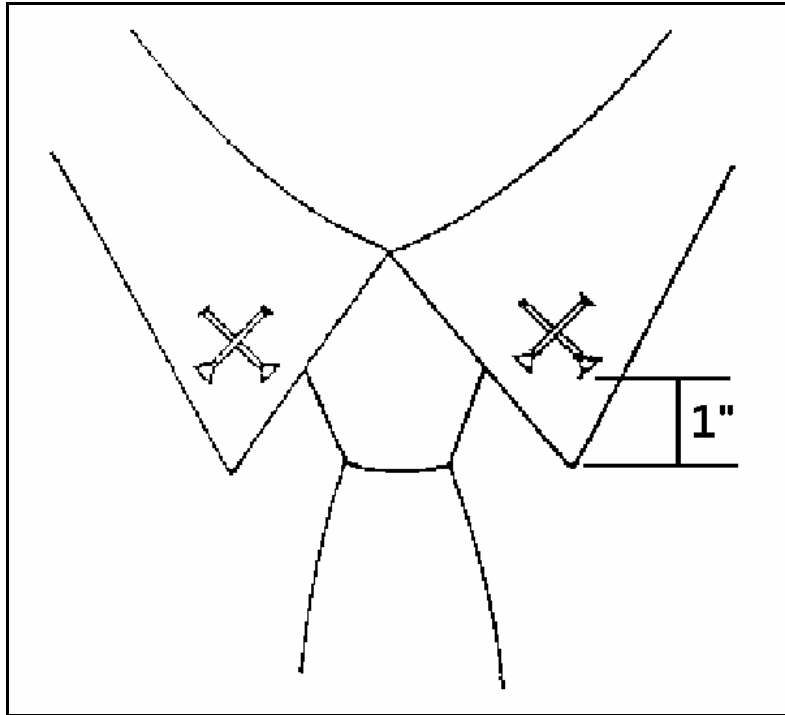
Manner of wearing collar insignia.



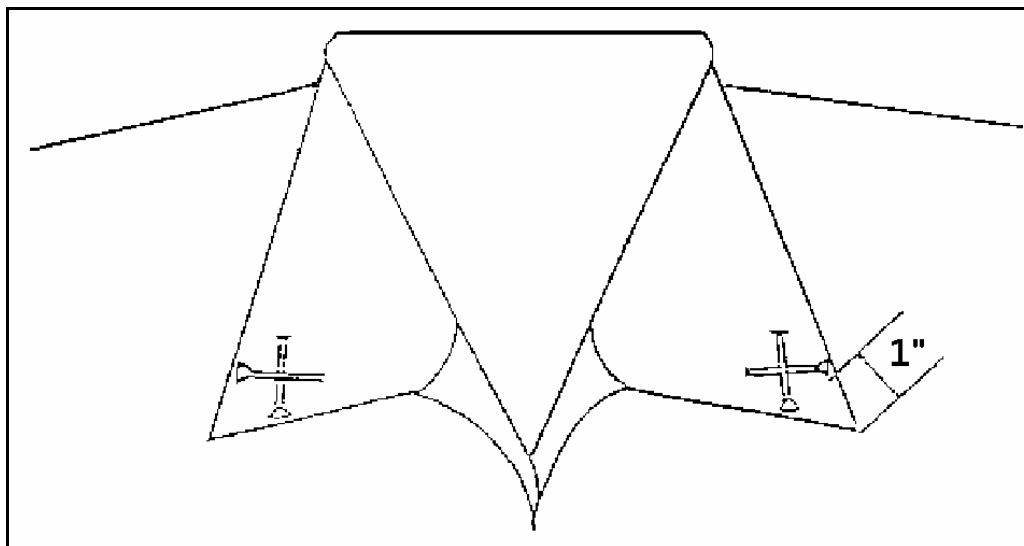
Stars will be centered on each collar, parallel to the inside of the collar, 1" from the front. This will apply with or without a necktie.

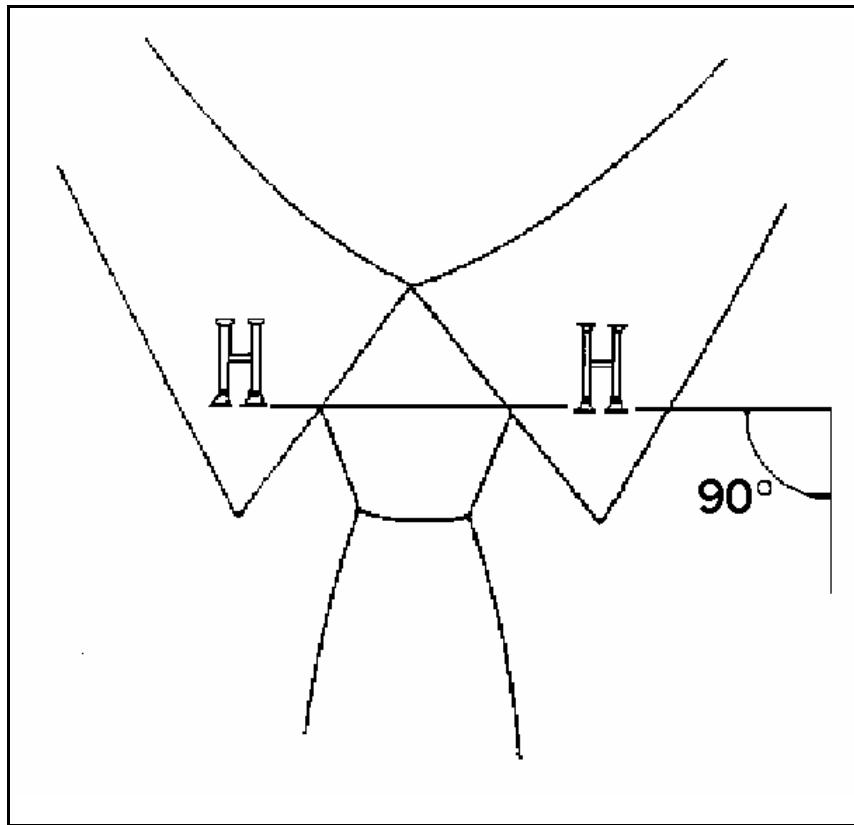


When the collar insignia contains an odd number of crossed bugles, the middle bugle will point at the collar tip. This will apply with or without a necktie.

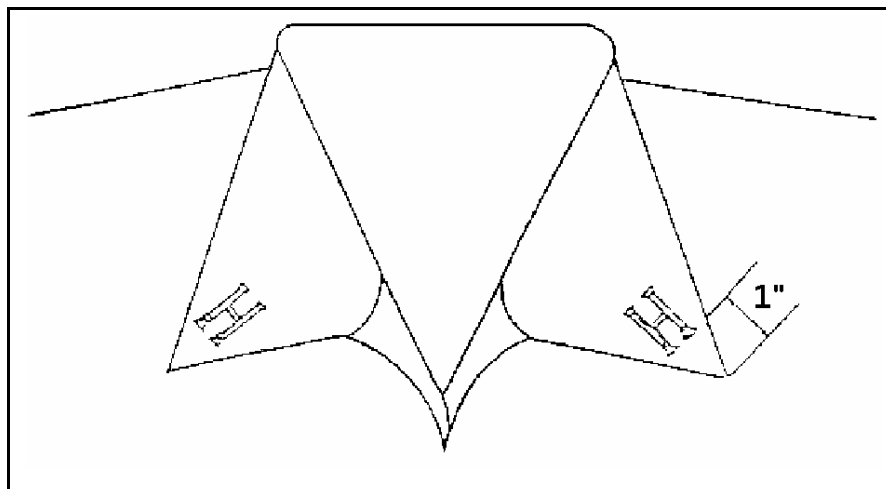


When the collar insignia contains an even number of crossed bugles, the middle point between the bugles will point at the collar tip. This will apply with or without a necktie.





Uncrossed bugles will be worn with a necktie as shown above.



Uncrossed bugles will be worn without a necktie as shown above.